

## **California Department of Food & Agriculture**

### **Minutes**

of the Joint Meeting of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board  
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force  
Held on Wednesday, October 29-30, 2008  
Embassy Suites Hotel, Temecula Valley Wine Country

#### **PD/GWSS BOARD**

Members Present: Kevin Andrew, Dennis Atkinson, Greg Coleman, Pete Downs, Ben Drake, Drew Johnson, Jim Ledbetter, Dana Merrill, Al Rossini, Herb Schmidt, and Marilyn Wolf

Members Absent: Bradford Lange, Steve McIntyre, and Steve Schafer

#### **PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE**

Members Present: Kevin Andrew, Nat DiBuduo, Ben Drake, Davis House, Nancy Ireland, Drew Johnson, Steve Nation, Corky Roche, John Snyder, Judy Stewart-Leslie, Beth Stone-Smith, Craig Weaver, David Whitmer, and David Wineman

Members Absent: Ted Batkin, Larry Bezark, George Bruening, Scott Hudson, Joe MacIlvaine, Richard Mounts, and Robert Wample

#### **OTHER ATTENDEES**

John Crossland, Cecilia Chi-Ham, Tom Esser, Mike Falasco, Ken Freeze, Barry Hill, Jim Kamas, Eric Lauritzen, David Morgan, Greg Morris, Amy Roda, Roger Spencer, Nick Toscano, and Bob Wynn

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Herb Schmidt and PD Advisory Task Force Chairperson Kevin Andrew called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board (Board) and the PD Advisory Task Force (ATF). A quorum was present for both the Board and the ATF.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Herb Schmidt welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ben Drake mentioned his appreciation and thanks to the Board, ATF and industry for the efforts everyone had put forth in keeping the grape and wine industry alive in Temecula.

Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner John Snyder welcomed the Board and ATF members to the meeting. He extended additional thanks to Ben Drake, Craig Weaver, and others for their assistance in establishing the Board and ATF and their concerns for the situation in Temecula.

Bob Wynn introduced the two newest members of the Board: Marilyn Wolf with Constellation Wines US / Robert Mondavi Woodbridge and Jim Ledbetter with Vino Farms in Lodi. In addition, he announced that the Governor had appointed Will R. Brown as Undersecretary at CDFA.

Bob Wynn also introduced the following special guests: John Crossland, the current chair of the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG), Dr. Amy Roda with the USDA, Dr. Nick

Toscano with UC Riverside, and Dr. Jim Kamas from the Texas Cooperative Extension Program with Texas A&M University.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- It was moved, seconded, and passed by the PD/GWSS Board and PD Advisory Task Force to approve the minutes from the April 22, June 6, and August 5, 2008 meetings.

#### **Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote**

In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, Johnson, Ledbetter, Merrill, Rossini, Schmidt, Wolf

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Lange, McIntyre, Schafer

#### **Details of PD/GWSS Advisory Task Force Vote**

In Favor: Andrew, DiBuduo, Drake, House, Irelan, Johnson, Nation, Roche, Snyder, Stewart-Leslie, Stone-Smith, Weaver, Whitmer, Wineman

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Batkin, Bezark, Bruening, Hudson, MacIlvaine, Mounts, Wample

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next joint PD/GWSS Board and PD Advisory Task Force meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2009, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at CDFA headquarters in Sacramento, California.

### **BOARD AND TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP**

Bob Wynn noted that there is a vacancy on the Board for a public member due to Wally Ewart's resignation. Bob asked for suggestions from the Board to discuss a replacement and make a recommendation to the Secretary.

Pete Downs motioned that the Nomination Committee should come up with the names of candidates for the public member position and the Board would vote on it at the next meeting.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed by the PD/GWSS Board to request the Nomination Committee to identify individuals to recommend to the Secretary for the public member position.

#### **Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote**

Motion: Pete Downs      Second: Ben Drake

In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, Johnson, Ledbetter, Merrill, Rossini, Schmidt, Wolf

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Lange, McIntyre, Schafer

### **NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dana Merrill of the Nomination Committee reported that the recommendation for new Board Treasurer to replace the retired Jim Unti was Dennis Atkinson.

- It was moved, seconded and passed by the PD/GWSS Board to appoint Dennis Atkinson as Treasurer.

#### Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote

Motion: Pete Downs      Second: Ben Drake  
In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, Johnson, Ledbetter, Merrill,  
             Rossini, Schmidt, Wolf  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Lange, McIntyre, Schafer

#### **LEGISLATION SUNSETS & CONSIDERATION OF EXTENSION; CONSIDERATION OF EXPANSION TO OTHER PESTS**

Board Chair Herb Schmidt led a discussion on the March 2011 sunset date of the enabling legislation for the Board, Task Force, and PDCP, as well as on the topic of expanding the use of the assessment to other pests of winegrapes. There was also discussion about restrictions on Board members when talking about extension and expansion of the Board.

Tom Esser reviewed the timeline of SB 1650, a law passed in 2004 which extended for five years the enabling legislation for the Board, Task Force, and PDCP. This was an urgency statute which became effective as soon as it was signed by the Governor. The five-year extension of the Board and assessment was contingent upon a favorable vote by affected growers, which occurred in 2005. Timelines for pursuing the next extension were then discussed.

#### **FISCAL UPDATE**

Bob Wynn talked about the most recent state budget and the large deficits being forecast. He said CDFA is looking at funding cuts in the current year. Roger Spencer then presented the fiscal report for the PDCP, which was followed by Tom Esser giving the fiscal report for the Board and Beth Stone-Smith reporting on federal FY 2008 funding.

#### **PIPRA UPDATE**

Cecilia Chi-Ham provided an update on the recent activities of PIPRA on behalf of the Board. Cecilia discussed the main PIPRA projects which included the maintenance of the Online Research Reporting System, the databases for PD intellectual property (IP) and literature, development of a standardized regulatory process for the PD industry group, and the IP policy for PD.

#### **RESEARCH DIRECTOR REPORT**

Nancy Irelan reported on her recent activities. She said she has been focusing on regulatory and commercialization issues as they relate to PD/GWSS research discoveries. She has also been helping with planning the next research symposium and preparing the next joint CDFA-UC request for proposals. She discussed the future role of the Research Scientific Advisory Panel (RSAP) and said the RSAP had implemented a panel rotation plan, where original members will gradually be replaced by newer members. She also said that Adam Bogdanove will be the next chair of the RSAP.

#### **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE**

Roger Spencer reported that the next outreach subcommittee meeting will include a discussion about an upcoming grower survey. These surveys are conducted periodically to gauge the effectiveness of public information efforts and the level of satisfaction of the growers with program activities. There was discussion about adding a question to measure interest in expanding the focus of the Board to include other pests of winegrapes. Roger also reported that Brown Miller continues to publish a quarterly newsletter as well as send out outreach e-blasts. Ken Freeze added that Brown Miller has been going to a number of different trade shows, and has put together tip sheets for distribution. He also noted that an article by Barry Hill would be published in the next issue of Practical Winery & Vineyard.

## **NURSERY PROGRAM UPDATE**

David House, Chair of the GWSS Nursery Subcommittee, gave a brief update on the nursery stock approved treatment program. He thanked the Board and ATF for supporting implementation of the program.

Greg Morris reported on the nursery regulatory program. He said so far this year there have been only 37 rejections or problem shipments, yielding a success rate of 99.93%.

Greg also reported on the implementation and monitoring of the nursery stock approved treatment protocol (NSATP). Four nurseries are currently shipping under the protocol. As part of quality control 12 GWSS egg masses found on treated nursery stock have been sleeved, with no successful GWSS emergence occurring.

Greg mentioned a few adjustments that had been made in the protocol since its implementation. These dealt with the effective period of shipment certificates and treatment-related issues.

Greg also discussed nursery treatments in southern California that are funded by the Board as part of its applied research program. He said 16 treatments have been applied at a total cost of \$140,812. This leaves \$159,188 for the rest of the current fiscal year.

## **AREAWIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**

Beth Stone-Smith reported on the areawide programs in Kern and Tulare counties. Her presentation included information on trap counts and treatments made in 2008 in these areas.

## **UPDATE ON TEXAS PD/GWSS PROGRAM**

Jim Kamas (Texas AgriLife Extension) provided an overview of the Texas PD Program. He talked about the size of the Texas wine industry, the regions where grapes are grown in Texas, and the impact of PD on grapevines. He said that in 2005 they started finding PD further north and west, and feels this may be due to the bacterium becoming cold hardy and the climate becoming milder. Jim said Texas and California have developed a very positive, cooperative working relationship providing mutual benefit to the programs in both states.

## **MANAGEMENT OF THE GWSS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Nick Toscano from UC Riverside gave a presentation on PD/GWSS in the Temecula and Coachella valleys. He covered trapping, treatment, trends, and challenges. He said GWSS populations had increased markedly in Temecula in 2008, probably due to reduced rain, a mild winter, and fewer pesticide treatments.

## **PIERCE'S DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM STAFF REPORTS**

**Rapid Response Program Update.** Roger Spencer gave an update on rapid response activities. He said there are three ongoing eradication efforts in Santa Clara County (Evergreen, Branham and Blossom Hill) and two in Sacramento County (Rancho Cordova and Foothill Farms). In Fresno County there is a large GWSS population and some were found outside of the quarantine boundaries. Control efforts are continuing there as well as in Porterville, Tulare County.

**Bulk Citrus:** Roger reported that there were four rejections of bulk citrus during the 2007-08 shipping season compared to nine in the previous year.

**Biocontrol Update.** David Morgan reported on the continuing progress of the biocontrol program. Biocontrol agents are being released in urban areas of Ventura, Tulare, San Diego, and San Bernardino counties. The number of wasps released since the beginning of the program now totals 1.7 million.

**PD Research Symposium.** Tom Esser announced the 8<sup>TH</sup> annual PD Research Symposium would be held December 15-17, 2008 in San Diego at the Westin Gaslamp Quarter Hotel.

**EIR.** Tom said a request for bids for an environmental consultant had been released on September 19, 2008. Bids are due November 19.

**RFP.** Tom reported that the next joint CDFA-UC PD/GWSS request for research proposals would be released November 10, 2008. Proposals will be due January 16, 2009. The review process will be similar to last year.

**Vineyard and Nursery Tour.** Greg Morris provided information regarding the vineyard and the Village Nursery tours planned for Thursday, October 30, 2008.

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.G. SECTION 11126**

N/A

**RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING**

N/A

**OTHER ITEMS**

N/A

**CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.